

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1–18 are pending in this application. Claims 19–28 are canceled herein without prejudice and claims 1 and 3 are amended herein for clarity to more particularly define the invention. Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments and reconsideration of this application in light of these amendments and the following remarks.

### **I. Support for Claim Amendments**

The amendments presented above have been made to recite particular features of the invention so as to expedite the prosecution of the present application to allowance in accordance with the USPTO Patent Business Goals (65 Fed. Reg. 54603, September 8, 2000). These amendments do not represent an acquiescence or agreement with any of the outstanding rejections.

Claim 1 is amended herein to recite: “...preparing a suspension of plastids of a plastid-bearing plant in a culture medium, for supporting the metabolism of said plastids...” and to correct a minor grammatical error. Claim 3 is amended herein to reflect the new recitation in amended claim 1. Support for these amendments is found throughout the specification and in the original claim language. It is believed that no new matter is added by these amendments.

### **II. Claim Rejection Under 35 USC § 102(b)**

Claims 1–3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Haughan et al. The Examiner states that although Haughan et al. does not disclose a method for screening for the presence of inhibition of at least one enzyme in the biosynthetic pathway to terpenoids via 1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate (DXP), all the active steps of the methods are identical, i.e., the same cells are used, incubated with the same precursors and the same products are isolated as claimed.

Claim 1 is amended herein to recite a method for screening for the presence of inhibition of at least one enzyme in the biosynthetic pathway to terpenoids via 1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate in plastids. The DXP pathway has been found to occur in plastids, while the classical

(mevalonate) pathway occurs in the cytosol of plant cells (last sentence on page 2 of the specification). As Haughan et al. does not teach a method for screening for the inhibition of terpenoid biosynthesis in plastids, Claim 1 as amended herein is not anticipated by Haughan et al. Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

### **III. Allowable Subject Matter**

The Office Action states that claims 4–6 and 8–18 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but could be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants note that the Office Action acknowledges that claims 4–6 and 8–18 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 1, from which claims 4–6 and 8–18 depend either directly or indirectly, as amended herein is patentable over the Haughan et al. reference. Thus, these dependent claims are believed to also be patentable as dependent from claim 1. Therefore this objection has been mooted and Applicants respectfully request its withdrawal.

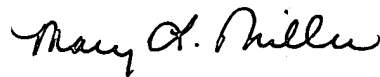
Attorney Docket No. 9286.3  
Application Serial No. 09/884,002  
Filed: June 18, 2001  
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### Conclusions

The points and concerns raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action have been addressed in full and it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney directly to expedite the prosecution of this application to allowance.

No fee is believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0220:

Respectfully submitted,



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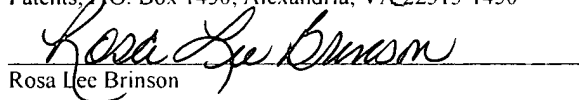
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Rosa Lee Brinson